

**Abstract 180**

**TITLE:** Sexual HIV Transmission Risk Behaviors Among HIV-Seropositive (HIV+) Injection Users and HIV+ Men Who Have Sex With Men: Implications for Interventions

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**OBJECTIVES:** HIV+ individuals play a key role in preventing further transmission of HIV. This study examines the frequency and context of unprotected sex with HIV-seronegative (HIV-) or unknown status sexual partners in two samples of HIV+ persons: male and female HIV+ injection drug users (IDUs) and HIV+ men who have sex with men (MSM).

**METHODS:** Cross-sectional study of 135 sexually active and currently injecting HIV+ IDUs (males =76; females =59) and 458 sexually active HIV+ MSM from the San Francisco Bay Area and New York City. Participants were recruited from street locations, public sex environments, and AIDS Service Organizations. All responded to a survey exploring health status, sex and drug use practices, attitudes, disclosure, and treatment. Qualitative interviews were also conducted to explore the context and barriers to safer sex practices.

**RESULTS:** Among IDUs 26% reported engaging in unprotected vaginal or anal sex with an HIV- or unknown status partner in the past year. Among MSM 23% reported engaging in unprotected insertive anal sex and 30% reported engaging in unprotected receptive anal sex with an HIV- or unknown status male partner in the past year. Among IDUs who reported having a main sexual partner (76%), 47% had HIV+ partners, 44% had HIV- partners, and 8% had unknown status partners. 62% of IDUs with HIV-/unknown status main partners reported unprotected vaginal or anal sex in the previous 3 months with main partners; and 57 % of those with casual partners reported unprotected vaginal or anal sex with casual partners in the previous 3 months. Among MSM who reported having a main sexual partner (43%), 51% had HIV+ partners, 40% had HIV- partners, and 9% had unknown status partners. 44% of MSM with HIV-/unknown status main partners reported unprotected anal sex in the previous 3 months with main partners. 36% of MSM with casual partners reported unprotected anal sex with an HIV-/unknown casual partner in the previous 3 months. The context of risky sexual encounters most differentiated IDUs and MSM. IDUs were more likely to report unprotected vaginal/anal sex with main partners of known HIV status; or in the context of exchange of sex for drugs where HIV status of partners was usually unknown. MSM were more likely to report unprotected sex with casual or anonymous partners of unknown status; or while under the influence of alcohol/drugs.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Results indicate that there is a grave need for HIV primary prevention interventions for both HIV+ IDUs and HIV+ MSM that focus on sexual behaviors. Similarities were found in both the proportion of individuals reporting high risk sex with HIV-/unknown partners in the past year, and in the distribution of seroconcordant versus sero-discordant partnerships. The context of sexual risk varied and suggests that interventions should be tailored to the particular needs of the target population.

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